

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1-3, 7-9, and 12 have been amended. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 20 and claim 11 has been cancelled. New claims 21-28 have been added. The new and amended claims are supported by the specification. No new matter has been added in the amended or new claims.

Formal Matters

Drawings

The drawings were objected to because of a reference in the specification to 102 in figure 2. The examiner is correct that this reference in the specification should have been a reference to 202, as illustrated in figure 2. The specification (paragraph beginning at page 13, line 10) has been amended to correct this typographical error.

Figure 2 was objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters 200 and 202 have been used to designate both a first/second location and a first/second area for a mobile user. Figure 2 has been amended to designate these reference characters 200a/202a and 200b/202b as suggested by the examiner.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 was objected to because of an informality. Claim 1 has been amended to address this objection. Applicants appreciate examiner's careful examination of this case and suggestions.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of wording, the presence of reference numbers, and length. The abstract of the disclosure has been amended accordingly.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 19 is allowable as the examiner indicated.

Claim 11 has been rewritten into independent form as new claim 20. Thus, claim 20 should be in a condition for allowance as the examiner indicated.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 9, 12-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,650,902 to Richton. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to more fully describe the claimed invention. As amended, claim 1 recites “defining at least one service zone boundary for said location-based service application, wherein said service zone boundary passes through at least one of a plurality of coverage areas of the wireless communications network; storing an identifier for a mobile unit; [and] monitoring a location of said mobile unit, using said location-based services application and said identifier of said mobile unit, to identify a crossing of said service zone boundary by said mobile unit.”

Richton discusses obtaining information “when a user of a wireless mobile unit 201 has satisfied a geographic relationship with a remote location, such as when the wireless mobile unit 201 is within 10, 15, or 20 miles of an airport.” (Richton at col. 4, lines 40-44, emphasis added). Thus, Richton appears to describe initiation of information gathering when the wireless mobile unit has satisfied “distance/proximity thresholds” in relation to a “remote location or target.” (Richton at col. 4, lines 28-35 and col. 5, lines 18-21). However, Richton does not teach or suggest “defining at least one service zone boundary for said location-based service application, wherein said service zone boundary passes through at least one of a plurality of coverage areas of the wireless communications network.”

In the present invention, a user may choose a service zone boundary that passes through a coverage area. For example, a service zone boundary may be a street or any arbitrary demarcation. The service zone boundary may pass through multiple coverage areas. Richton does not reach or suggest these features of the invention. For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is patently distinct over Richton.

Claims 2-5, 9, 12-13, and 15-17 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed for claim 1 above. Furthermore, these claims recites additional limitations and should be allowable for these additional reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richton in view of U.S. patent 5,889,770 to Jokiahio *et al.*, hereafter Jokiahio. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 6 and 10, which depend from claim 1, are believed to be in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to amended claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations they recite. For example, Jokiahio discusses using cell identifiers (e.g. subdivision identifiers) to locate a mobile user's position. (Jokiahio at col. 3, line 57 - col. 4, line 5). Jokiahio also discusses that location updating is performed as a mobile user crosses from one cell to another or "during every cell crossover." (Jokiahio at col. 7, lines 25-30 and Figure 3, emphasis added). In figures 2 and 3, Jokiahio appears to describe performing location updating as a mobile user crosses from one location area to another (LA1 to LA2, figure 2) or from one cell to another (C1 to C2, etc., figure 3). Therefore, nowhere does Jokiahio teach or suggest service zone boundaries.

In figures 2 and 3, Jokiahio provides dashed lines to form boundaries enclosing a number of cells to collectively define location areas LA1 and LA2. However, these location areas are not "at least one service zone boundary for said location-based service application, wherein said service zone boundary passes through at least one of a plurality of coverage areas of the wireless communications network," as recited by claim 1. Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 6 and 10, which are dependent on claim 1, are in a condition for allowance.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richton in view of U.S. patent 5,461,390 to Hoshen.

Claim 7 is dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed for claim 1 above. Furthermore, claim 7 recites additional limitations and should be allowable for these additional reasons.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richton in view of U.S. patent 6,516,190 to Linkola.

Claim 8 is dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed for claim 1 above. Furthermore, claim 8 recites additional limitations and should be allowable for these additional reasons.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richton in view of U.S. patent 5,742,905 to Pepe *et al.*

Claim 14 is dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed for claim 1 above. Furthermore, claim 14 recites additional limitations and should be allowable for these additional reasons.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richton in view of U.S. patent 6,463,273 to Day.

Claim 18 is dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed for claim 1 above. Furthermore, claim 18 recites additional limitations and should be allowable for these additional reasons.

New Claims

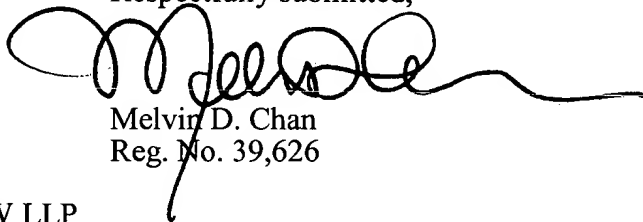
New claims 21-28 have been added to more fully describe the present invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400, extension 5213.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melvin D. Chan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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